

FOLLOWING PRAYER CHURCH TENT BURNS

Member Declares Blaze Due to
Appeal for Rain of Fire to
Purge St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 12.—Following the destruction by fire at 2 a. m. of the tent of the Holiness Christian Rescue and Mission Church, at Bell and Compton avenues, Brother Carmel Patrick, one of the pillars of the church, said that he believed a prayer of the evening before, that a fire might descend upon the city and shock the sinners into repentance, may have had something to do with it.

The Rev. Melvin Pratt, pastor, however, sees nothing supernatural about the blaze, but thinks it may have been started purposely by some of the neighbors who have nightly turned phonograph batteries on the tent while services were being conducted.

Brother Patrick remains true to his conviction, in spite of his spiritual supervisor's opinion. He declares that the tent was damaged by a wind several weeks ago after some one had prayed that a mighty wind be sent over the city to drive the unrighteous to repentance.

Tent Weatherproofed.
The tent was forty by sixty feet and had been weatherproofed to keep out the rain. Brother Patrick slept in it on a cot. He was awakened by the heat from the fire. He literally arose, took up his bed, and walked out of there, leaving his hat and shoes behind him.

Besides the tent, a number of chairs, some benches, an organ, and hymn books were burned. A policeman who discovered the blaze turned in an alarm, but the tent burned so rapidly that the fire department could do nothing with it.

The tent had been the cause of much neighborhood disturbance since it was put up there early in June. Its congregation holds nightly services, at which there is much singing, shouting, exhorting, and praying. The neighbors have complained that the noise made it impossible to sleep.

Several weeks ago many of them turned the horns of their phonographs on the tent and played the latest popular air when the services began. A label of music, in which church songs intermingled with half a dozen ragtime melodies, was not unusual.

Nicknames for Worshipers.
The neighbors even invented nicknames for some of the worshipers. One woman, whose voice could always be distinguished above others either in exhortation or prayer, was dubbed "The Warhorse." A man leader, because of his unusual, locally known as "Stringbean."

In spite of this antipathy, the Holiness worshipers continued their meetings. If possible, their prayers became even more fervent as they beseeched Divine intercession to soften the hearts of the sinners in the vicinity.

It was in some of these prayers that were uttered the petitions for fire, windstorm and the fire which Brother Patrick thinks have had such disastrous consequences.

The headquarters of the mission are at Pratt's home, 316 Bell avenue. Services will be conducted there, the pastor said, until the tent can be replaced. He places the total fire loss at \$25.

Mrs. Catherine Keller, 229 Compton avenue, who lives near the tent, was awakened by the heat of the flames and she and her family went out into the street, fearing their house would be destroyed.

City News Notes

Mrs. Clarence W. Perley had charge of the semi-monthly meeting in the lecture room of All Souls' Church, today. It was under the auspices of the Woman's Alliance.

Technical subjects were discussed at last night's meeting of the Chemical Society of Washington, at the Cosmos Club.

These officers have been elected by the Children's Council of Washington: George S. Wilson, chairman; Miss Cornelia Aldis, vice chairman; Dr. A. J. McKelvey, secretary; and Walter S. Lifford, treasurer.

Saturday Specials:

REMARKABLE BARGAINS that are going to decide many gift problems in favor of furs.

Black Wolf Sets, \$15
Fifty offered, worth \$15 each.

Iceland Fox Sets, \$10
Twenty-five sets, each worth \$25.

Raccoon Sets, \$15
Natural skins, each \$15. Only fifty sets offered.

Saks Fur Co.
Established Over 25 Years
1212 F Street

BALTIMORE & OHIO EXPRESS TRAINS
"Every Hour on the Hour"
To and From
BALTIMORE
WEEK DAYS
Tickets Good on All Trains.
\$1.75 ROUND TRIP
TICKETS GOOD TWO DAYS,
Including Date of Sale.
\$1.25 ROUND TRIP
Tickets Good Going on Saturday and Sunday. Good Returning Until 9:00 A. M. Train, Monday Inclusive.

Raleigh to the Alumni Association of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Three plays were presented last night by the pupils and teachers of the School of Dramatic Art, at Pylthian Temple.

"Personal Reminiscences of Tennessee" was the subject of the address last night at Holy Cross Academy by Wilfred Ward, editor of the Dublin Review.

The Rev. Edward K. Hardin, pastor of the Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Episcopal Church, South, recently transferred from the South Carolina Conference, had charge of the mid-week prayer services last night.

The debating society of Georgetown University will discuss "Resolved, That the United States Should Send at Once an Accredited Ambassador to the Huasteca Government in Mexico," in Gaston Hall, Sunday evening.

An investigation of an accident to the new steam launch belonging to the District Naval Militia is to be made by officials of the militia.

Contributions for the 150,000 orphaned of devastated Bulgaria were collected by Mrs. Z. D. Furness, of Sofia, at the Church of the Covenant, last night.

Legislation for the improvement of the Mississippi river will be the subject of an address by Congressman Humphreys of Mississippi at a meeting of the Mississippi Society to be held at Confederate Memorial Hall next Monday evening at 8 o'clock.

The following officers were nominated at a meeting of the National Yacht Club, Water and N streets northwest, last night, and will be voted upon at the next meeting of the club: Commodore, E. B. Burdett; vice commodore, G. W. Wilbur; rear commodore, W. O. Owens; secretary, J. E. Colton, president of the society, made an address. Those who took part in the entertainment were Miss Isabel Purcell, William Fleming, Miss Mae Penback, W. R. Woulfe, and Daniel Mahoney.

Sadie Kress, four years old, of 2430 Eighteenth street northwest, was knocked down in front of her home last evening by a bicycle ridden by John S. West. The child escaped with a few slight bruises.

Struck by a taxicab at Seventh and E streets late yesterday, Albert Jacoby, was not unusual.

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